



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ROOM 9M15, 60 FORSYTH ST., S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8801

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CESAD-CM-OR (1145b)

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, WILMINGTON DISTRICT

SUBJECT: Emergency Permit Processing Procedures (Hurricane Isabel)

1. Reference memorandum, CESA-W-RG, 15 September 2003, subject as above (Encl 1).
2. Pursuant to 33 CFR 325.2(e)(4), you are authorized to implement special emergency permit processing procedures, as specifically outlined in your 15 September memorandum, for any work requiring emergency action as a result of Hurricane Isabel.
3. This authorization will expire 30 November 2003 unless modified or rescinded prior to that date.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RRCastro", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Randal R. Castro
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PO BOX 1890
WILMINGTON NC 28402-1890



CESAW-RG (1145b)

15 September 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION

SUBJECT: Emergency Permit Processing Procedures

1. As a result of the possible passage of Hurricane Isabel through eastern North Carolina on or about this date and the resulting likely damage, we anticipate a large number of requests for permits under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to repair and install utility lines, roads, bridges, and other infrastructure and structures which may involve work in waters and wetlands of North Carolina.
2. Pursuant to 33 CFR 325.2(e)(4), we are requesting blanket authority to process emergency permits for activities necessary as a result of the storm. We believe this is necessary to minimize significant losses of property and/or unforeseen economic hardship if permits are not processed in a very rapid evaluation time. We also anticipate possible human health hazards from contaminated water supplies and disease vectors in debris accumulations. I would emphasize that this authority is requested to address only activities directly related to the storm event referenced above and would be for no activities not attributable to the storm event.
3. We propose that most activities will be processed as Regional General (RGP's) or Nationwide (NWP's) permits to the maximum extent possible. For those activities which cannot reasonably be considered under the RGP's or the NWP's, we propose the following procedures:
 - a. All emergency permit requests will be carefully screened by a Regulatory Division Regulatory Specialist or Regulatory Project Manager who will determine if the activity proposed is truly an emergency situation which cannot await the time necessary for processing of a standard permit and if a RGP or NWP applies.
 - b. If the activity is judged to be an emergency and neither a RGP nor NWP applies, a description of the activity, where it is located, and the approximate amount of waters and/or wetlands impacted will be faxed or electronically transmitted to representatives of the Federal and State permit review agencies. This will include the 401 certifying agency and the Coastal Management certifying agency. These agencies have been contacted by telephone and have agreed to cooperate in expeditiously reviewing these requests.

CESAW-RG (1145-b)

SUBJECT: Emergency Permit Processing Procedures

The comments of the agencies, including Division of Water Quality Section 401 certifications and Division of Coastal Management approvals, will be requested within 12 hours of the notification and a decision will be made on the permit within 24 hours of the request, if possible.

The Corps representative will discuss requests by telephone with the agency representatives, if necessary, and comments will be taken by telephone, if agreeable to the agency, and will be documented by notes immediately and followed by faxed or mailed written comments to the maximum extent possible.

c. We have discussed with the agencies the possibility of setting up an emergency permit processing center in the District office staffed by a representative of each agency and the Corps Regulatory Division to handle the initial expected large volume of requests for some period of time after the storm passes (perhaps 10 days to 2 weeks). If the center cannot be established, then processing will occur by faxing and telephoning as above.

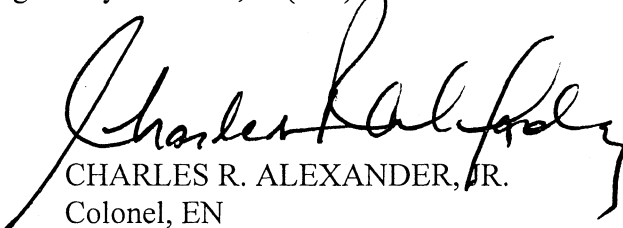
d. The review agencies are assured that all of their referral prerogatives under Section 404q will be honored.

e. We are also pursuing the possibility of the state issuing general 401 certifications or Division of Coastal Management certifications, or waiving these certifications in some cases.

f. Appropriate measures will be taken to notify the public of these emergency procedures if approved.

4. I believe this process will be of considerable benefit to the public and will protect our valuable water and wetland resources in North Carolina.

5. If there is any additional information required or if there are questions regarding this process, please contact Mr. Ken Jolly, Chief of my Regulatory Division, at (910) 251-4630.



CHARLES R. ALEXANDER, JR.
Colonel, EN
Commanding